SCOTH was created in February this year when the Government published its action plan on smoking "Smoke Free for Health". It is a wholly new committee and has not even met formally as yet. It will do so tomorrow when it will determine its plan of action. We already know that it intends to look at ETS specifically in the light of the EPA report. It will rely on its Technical Working Group for a great deal of its work. When it finally adopts a report it will give it to the Government's Chief Medical Officer who works at the Department of Health. It will then be for the Department to decide what action to take.

The Department of Health created the Committee and it is to them that it reports. Parliament will then most likely receive a report from the Department and may call for action if the Government decides not to act on the advice of SCOTH. There may even be a debate on the report or a Select Committee enquiry. It looks likely that all of this will be an annual event since the Committee is unlikely to meet more than once a quarter. The Technical Working Group will probably meet more regularly and both are working with the industry experts.

For the time being we are only aware of its work on ETS although we understand it is also to look at additives.

It terms of reference are as follows:
To provide advice to the Chief Medical Officer on scientific matters concerning tobacco and health, in particular -

to review scientific and medical evidence on such areas relating to tobacco and health, including behavioural aspects of tobacco use, as may be agreed between the Committee and the UK Health Departments and in the light of these reviews,

to advise on research priorities on tobacco and health, including behavioural aspects of tobacco use;

to provide advice to the Department of Health, acting on behalf of the UK Health Departments, about the constituents of tobacco products and their smoke.

to review existing controls on additives and the emission of toxic substances from cigarettes and to provide advice on controls.

The Committee is as follows:
Chairman Professor David Poswillo, views on smoking unknown
Dr Richard Carter, views unknown
Dr Godfrey Fowler, anti-smoker
Professor Roger Greenhalgh, anti-smoker
Ms Marion Hall, probable anti-smoker
Dr Martin Jarvis, anti-smoker
Dr Aidan Macfarlane, anti-smoker

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/zgxj0000

Professor David Marks, views unknown
Professor Anthony Newman Taylor, anti-smoker
Professor Richard Peto, anti-smoker
Professor Nicholas Wald, anti-smoker
Dr Eileen Rubery, views unknown

The Department is anxious to make clear that the Committee will deal only with Science. Policy issues will be left to the Department itself, which is not bound by the Committee's recommendations. The Department can still decide to do more or less than recommended. The Department is answerable to Parliament not the Committee.

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/zgxj0000